

## Willy-Cup

The Willy-Cup is an **international student competition** that promotes **innovative concepts for sustainability, nature and environmental protection**. Organized by the Norwegian-German Willy-Brandt Foundation in cooperation with the Gymnasium Carolinum Neustrelitz, the Willy-Cup takes place at the Gymnasium and its school forest sites in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. Each year, **18 students from Norway, Germany and one guest country** (Poland in 2024, Italy in 2025) participate in the competition. They are assigned to find answers to **natural scientific questions** and solve **practical tasks** related to the conservation of different ecosystems belonging to the Gymnasium Carolinum's school forest. The competition is supported by the Schulverein Carolinum e.V. and the Stiftung Wälder für Morgen (Foundation Forests for Tomorrow), who implement the competition as part of their International School Forest Academy.

## Location and ecosystems

The Willy-Cup takes place at the Gymnasium Carolinum, the school camp Babke and, most importantly, **outside in the school forest!** Provided by the Stiftung Wälder für Morgen, the sites involve very different ecosystems. Other than the name might suggest, they do not only include various forest types (beech, alder, pine, mixed-forest etc.) but also open lands, a lake and a wetland. Conducting their tasks, the participants of the Willy-Cup **get to know and study some of these ecosystem types**.



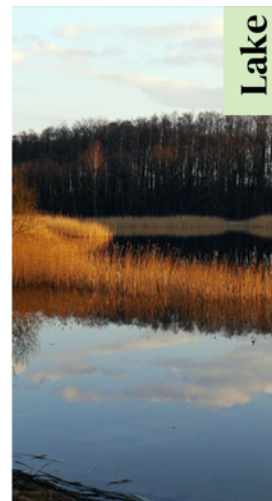
Forest

Increasing the climate resilience of forests and supporting integrative forest management, particularly using Möller's Dauerwald concept



Open Land

Protecting biodiversity on flowering fields and permanent grassland



Lake

Restoring a lake and diving for nature conservation



Wetland

Developing a restoration plan for a wetland

## Groups

18 Participants are split into 3 groups  
Each group consists of 2 Norwegian, 2 Italian and 2 German students  
(one girl and one boy each)

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
<p>CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration and climate change mitigation using conventional measurement tools</p> <p><b>Scientific task:</b> Estimation of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration collecting data with conventional tools of measurement</p> <p><b>Methods:</b> Measurement of tree diameters and heights, calculation of biomass, sequestered CO<sub>2</sub> and stored carbon using data from all measured trees</p>	<p>CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration and climate change mitigation using conventional measurement tools and regression analyses</p> <p><b>Scientific task:</b> Estimation of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration collecting data with conventional tools of measurement and using regression analyses</p> <p><b>Methods:</b> Measurement of tree diameters and heights, calculation of biomass, sequestered CO<sub>2</sub> and stored carbon using data from some measured trees and regression analyses</p>	<p>CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration and climate change mitigation using laser scanning technology</p> <p><b>Scientific task:</b> Estimation of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration using data from laser scans</p> <p><b>Methods:</b> Measurement of tree diameters and heights, calculation of biomass, sequestered CO<sub>2</sub> and stored carbon using point cloud data from laser scans</p>

## Outcome and effect on students

The **first Willy-Cup took place from the 12-15<sup>th</sup> of May 2024**. The activities aimed to **increase the student's awareness** about ecosystem degradation and climate change and gave them a concrete opportunity to **become an active part of the sustainability solutions** we need for the future. Thereby, students were involved in **practical activities** (like building wooden jaw boxes) and in **strategic and research tasks**, to learn how to **approach environmental challenges effectively and scientifically**. This did not only highlight the importance of **interdisciplinary work** to counteract environmental challenges. Working in groups of students from three different nationalities also taught them to **collaborate internationally** and to communicate essential concepts of sustainability, nature and environmental protection in English. The **use of innovative technology and the presentation of their results in groups** equipped them with both hard and soft skills. Consequently, **the Willy-Cup serves as a very concrete example of how students can act as youth ambassadors, promoting a**

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**sustainable use of nature** not only in their respective home region but also on an international level.

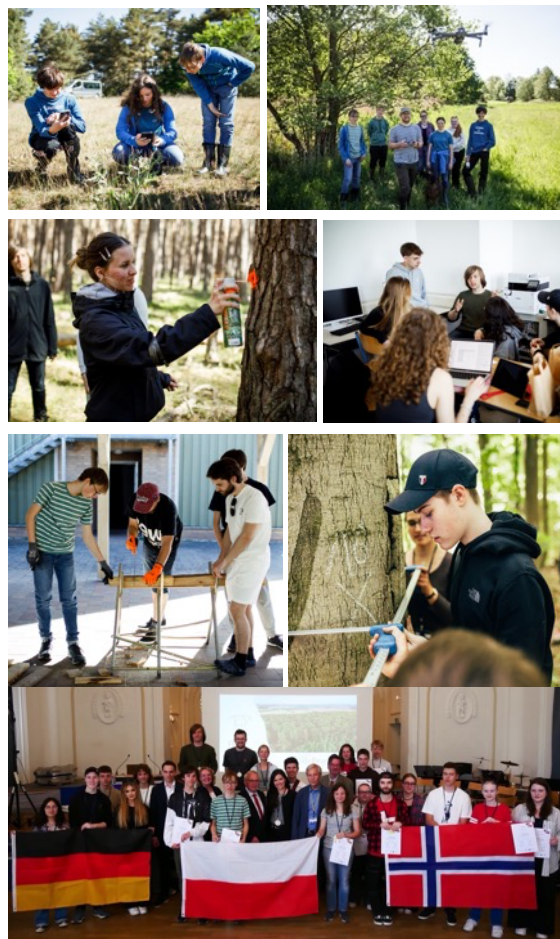
## Outlook

Building on the experience from May 2024, **the next Willy-Cup will take place from the 11-16th of May 2025**. This time, the students will compare methods to calculate how much CO<sub>2</sub> is sequestered by different forest types. The guest country will be Italy, inviting students from the partner school of the Gymnasium Carolinum in Mondovì (s. picture below, preparatory meeting with headmaster Donatella Garelo). We are already looking forward to see you there (again)!



**Thanks for your support!**  
Schulverein „Carolinum“ e. V.  
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Purpose of use: Willy-Cup 2025

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# Second Willy-Cup

## 11-16 May 2025



den norsk-tyske  
die norwegisch-deutsche  
**Willy Brandt**  
stiftelsen  
stiftung

